



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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TO: System Test Coordinators, Superintendents, Building Administrators,
Special Education Directors, County Superintendents, Authorized
Representatives
FROM: Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, jsnow@mt.gov 406-444-3656
DATE: November 26, 2013
RE: Quick Details for Spring Assessment Administration

Montana OPI has received a waiver from the United States Department of Education to substitute the CRT in Reading and Math, grades 3-8 and 10, with the Smarter Balanced Field Test, grades 3-8 and 11, in English Language Arts and Math in the spring of 2014. Students in public and private accredited schools are required to participate in the field test and in the Science CRT and, when appropriate, the CRT-Alternate in Science, Reading, and Math.

The details below are intended to assist with schedules and planning. More information will be provided in the December JUMP newsletter.

Smarter Field Test

- **Montana Smarter Computer Adaptive Field Test Window: March 18 – May 14, 2014**
Schools can set their own windows within the state window.
- All students in grades 3-8 and 11 in public and private accredited schools will participate in the ELA and the Math field tests.
- We are seeking a sample of students in grades 9 and 10 to participate in the grade 11 field test and hope that many or all high schools will volunteer to be part of the sample. This will be a good opportunity for students who will be taking the test in the next two years to get some advance experience. If each high school volunteers one class of up to 30 students, Montana students will be well represented. Please use the following survey monkey link to volunteer by December 16, 2013. Only one person for each school should complete the survey.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FieldTest_VoluntaryGrades9and10_Sample
- Data for Enrolled students taking the Smarter Field Test
 - OPI will use the AIM system to provide student enrollment data to ETS so the system will be ready to provide a test for each student. The deadline for providing AIM with the most current student information is **January 24, 2014**.
 - Please work with your AIM staff to ensure that your system has provided the most current information.
- Accommodations
 - Please share the link below to the Smarter accessibility guidance with all your teachers, especially the special education staff. The guidance is the official Smarter document on tools, supports, and accommodations.
http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf
 - Arrangements for accommodations can be made as late as the day before a student starts the Smarter field test; however, those arrangements will need to be accomplished at the system level. System test coordinators will coordinate these efforts and input the information. OPI will provide training.

- Scheduling Tips
 - Since there are no predetermined break points in the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) or Performance Tasks (PT), students can work on the test during one scheduled test period and then continue the test during the next scheduled test period. On the CAT, they will not be able to return to the items they answered the prior day, but they will be able to continue the rest of the test.
 - All students will participate in the performance tasks as well as the Computer Adaptive Test.
 - A timing table will be included in the upcoming JUMP.

Science Paper/Pencil CRT and CRT-Alternate in Science, Reading, and Math

- **Student Participation**
 - All students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in public and private accredited schools will participate in the CRT Science.
 - All eligible students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in public and private accredited schools will participate in the Science CRT-Alternate.
 - All eligible students in grades 3- 8, and 10 in public and private accredited schools will participate in the Reading and Math CRT-Alternate.
- **Science CRT test window: March 3 – March 25, 2014**
 - Barcode Labels for the CRT Science
 - The deadline for providing AIM with the most current student information is **January 24, 2014**. Please work with your AIM staff to meet this deadline.
- **CRT Alternate Assessments test window: February 17 – March 25, 2014**
 - Barcode Labels for the CRT-Alternate Assessments

Both barcode labels and materials for the alternate assessment are dependent upon registration of eligible students through the Measured Progress site. If the deadlines are not met, barcode labels and materials will not be available thus preventing participation. Please follow the registration deadlines for eligible students. The deadline for students currently enrolled has been extended to **December 16, 2013**. Below are further registration deadline details. If you have questions, please contact Ashley Makowski, 406-444-3511 or amakowski@mt.gov

 - Oct. 7 – Dec. 16, 2013: For students currently enrolled in your school
 - Jan. 2 – Jan. 14, 2014: **Only** for students who enroll in your school after Dec. 16, 2013
 - After Jan. 14, 2014: **Only** for students who enroll in your school after Jan. 14, 2014
- Accommodations

The 2014 CRT Accommodations Guidance memo is online:
<http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/14Accommodations-Guidance-Memo-9-2014YFedits.pdf>